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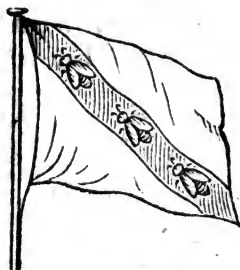


In Memory of
STEPHEN SPAULDING
1907 - 1925
class of 1927
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANDERSON

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A SHORT
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
ISLAND OF ELBA,
AND
TOWN OF PORTO-FERRAJO;
ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE VIEW
NOW EXHIBITING IN
Henry Aston Barker's Panorama,
LEICESTER SQUARE.



BONAPARTE'S FLAG AT ELBA
was White, with a Red Stripe, placed diagonally, upon which
were three Bees, as represented above.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

1815.

Mr. H. A. BARKER respectfully informs the Public, that he took the View of Porto-Ferrajo in the latter part of October and beginning of November, 1814. As soon as his motive for visiting Elba was made known to Count Bertrand, to whom he had a letter of introduction, he immediately received permission, by an Order from Count Drauot, Governor of the Palace, to take his Sketches from any part he thought most agreeable. The present point, therefore, was chosen, as it combined a better View of the Town and Bay, than any other station he went to.

Stephen Spaulding Mem.
Magg
1-22-59
SS 4191(2)

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

VIEW OF

ELBA AND PORTO-FERRAJO.

ELBA, known to the ancient Greeks by the name of *Æthalia*, and to the Romans by that of *Ilva*, is an island in the Mediterranean, situated about four leagues from the promontory of Piombino, in Tuscany. It is of a triangular form, nearly twenty miles in length, and about sixty miles in circumference, though there is but little territory, being cut into by many bays and creeks, which make it, in several parts, extremely narrow. The Island is composed of high land, and at sea has a most beautiful appearance, many of the mountains being covered to their summits with odoriferous plants, myrtle, and evergreen oak; while others are altogether barren and rocky

masses, whose savage wildness gives a pleasing contrast to the cultivated slopes and valleys at their base, abounding in vines and fig-trees, with a little grain, and some olives. This Island was much frequented by the Greeks and Romans on account of the superior iron it produces. The mines are on the east side, at the small Town of Rio, (not seen in this View.) There are no rivers in Elba, but a number of springs and rivulets supply the inhabitants with excellent water in abundance. The climate is warm and genial, and the soil capable of much improvement; yet, notwithstanding these advantages, it produces little to support its population, computed at from 11 to 12,000, which is supplied with almost every necessary from Leghorn and Piombino; in return they export iron ore, none being manufactured by the Elbese from want of sufficient wood for fuel, also salt and wine, which is of excellent quality. Another article of export is the tunny. This fish, and the salt, belong to government; and form a considerable part of its revenue.

In the Island are two fortified towns, Porto-Ferrajo, pronounced *Ferrayo* by the natives, and Porto-Longone, with several villages and hamlets. The latter town is situated on the south-east side of the Island, but not seen in the Panorama. Porto-Ferrajo, the capital, is situated on the north side, built on a high promontory, detached

from the main land by a small canal, cut on the south end, as a ditch to Fort Falcone. Over the canal is a draw-bridge. The Town stands at the entrance of an extensive Bay, bearing its name, in which the largest ships of war may anchor in perfect safety, and has a good harbour of a semi-circular form. Its population is estimated at 3000 souls. The houses are built in streets rising above each other on the side of a hill, terminated on the top by two Forts, the Falcone and Fort Stella. The former is of great extent and considerable strength, surrounding the whole west side of the town, with batteries down to the beach. The fort was built by Cosmo the First, Grand Duke of Tuscany, who received the territory of Porto-Ferrajo from the government of Piombino, in 1537, to fortify the town, and protect it from the frequent incursions of Barbarossa, who ravaged the Island at different times. The Grand Duke, having completed the works, called the Town Cosmopoli.

Fort Stella is smaller than the Falcone. It has a light-house, and defends the entrance of the Bay. Between these forts, upon the top of a high cliff, overhanging the sea, stands the Pavilion, inhabited by Bonaparte. The building is small, and consists of a centre and two wings, all one story above the ground. The centre had only a ground-floor when the Emperor came to the Island, but he added the upper part, making

it higher than the wings. From hence, on one side, he had a view of his native Island, (Corsica,) distant ten leagues, the Islands of Capraja and Gorgona, with the Coast of Tuscany, from the point near Leghorn almost to Piombino; and, on the other side, the whole Town, with its Harbour and extensive Bay; so that no vessel could arrive or depart without his knowledge. In front of the Pavilion, on the opposite side of the road, were the Barracks of the Imperial Guards, who followed Bonaparte from France, consisting of 700 picked men; and within an hundred yards his mother had a very extensive house.

The streets of Porto-Ferrajo are inconvenient in consequence of their ascent, and being paved in steps, except one which runs the whole length of the town, near the Quay. Of course no carriages are seen in them; nor were there any in the town, except those of Bonaparte and his suite. As there was no carriage-way, he constructed a road from his house, behind the town, leading through the gate of Fort Falcone to the country. At the period this View was taken, there were two hotels, the one had tolerable accommodation, but the other dirty in the extreme; and several coffee-houses, but no places of public amusement; though it was intended to have had a company of performers as soon as a theatre could be completed; for which purpose

the Emperor had ordered the principal church, used by the French before his arrival as a barrack, to be fitted up, and which, in November, was nearly finished. The town has one square, called the *Place d'Armes*. Here some Corsican recruits were daily drilled, by General Cambrone, during Mr. Barker's stay. These, no doubt, formed part of the body that accompanied Bonaparte to France. The east side of the Harbour is bounded by a long work, serving as an Arsenal, called the *Linguetta*, terminated by a very singular Tower, (Fort Martelle.) From this point the present view was taken, but the observer is removed a short way from it in order to show a work, perhaps *unique* in its form.

From Fort Martelle to Fort Stella is one continued range of batteries, by which the entrance to Porto-Ferrajo is completely defended, making the whole town one of the strongest fortresses in Europe.

On the west side of the Bay, a little to the south of the town, stands Fort St. Cloud, built to protect the Lazaretto on the beach below. In constructing this Lazaretto, Bonaparte formed a plan to make Porto-Ferrajo a quarantine station for vessels coming from the east of the Mediterranean, as it would be nearer for them than going to Leghorn, the place where such ships generally perform that ceremony. In doing this he offended the people of Leghorn, as it was

dépriving them of some advantages ; and, as a vessel actually came to Elba from Malta, and landed her goods, &c. in the Lazaretto, the government of Leghorn declared the whole Island to be under quarantine, at the same time prohibiting any communication with the Elbese. This measure had the desired effect ; for, after a lapse of two months, Bonaparte, finding his subjects were in danger of being starved, was forced to relinquish his quarantine project, and the works were discontinued. Some of the buildings, in their unfinished state, are seen in the Panorama. Over them, at some distance, are seen two forts, the one, *Fort Blanc*, situated upon a high hill near the sea, was built by the French ; the other was constructed by the English, when the Island was in our possession in 1801-2. It is called *Fort Anglois*.

A little to the left of the Lazaretto is *l'Inconstante*, a corvette brig of war of eighteen guns, belonging to the Emperor, and the only ship he had, (the same in which he returned to France.) She was sent to Naples to convey his sister Pauline, the Princess Borghese, to Elba ; who arrived on the 31st of October last. Immediately upon the brig appearing in sight, Bonaparte, accompanied by some officers, went in a barge, followed by some others, to meet the Princess at sea, and returned with her in the barge under a

royal salute from the guns seen on the end of the Linguetta, where the Emperor, Colonel Sir N. Campbell, Counts Bertrand and Drouot, and General Cambrone, are represented in the Painting.

The day after the arrival of the Princess, two merchant brigs entered the harbour, and landed a great quantity of property belonging to her, as was said; this, with the report that she intended to remain in Porto-Ferrajo, and Bonaparte continuing to finish his country palace in the Valley of St. Martins, appeared as if he had no idea, at that time, of quitting the Island. He went almost every day to inspect the progress of this new palace, to which he had formed an agreeable road from the town, and travelled in a barouche, drawn by four horses, accompanied by Count Bertrand, or Count Drouot, the Governor of the Palace, and a Secretary. Some guards attended the carriage, which was always preceded by out-riders. Among the guards were some of the Polish regiment, and two Mamalukes.

The vessel seen a-head of l'Inconstante is a settee from Tunis, which came into the Bay on account of bad weather. The next day two merchant brigs belonging to Genoa, but under English colours, came in for shelter on the same account. The State of Tunis being then at war with Genoa, Bonaparte supposed that the settee

would follow the brigs when they sailed, and capture them ; he therefore laid an embargo on the Tunisian vessel, and ordered a guard to be placed on the Linguetta, with the guns pointed at her, to prevent her slipping out at night, until the brigs had sailed a sufficient time to enable them to reach their destination in safety.

Over l'Inconstante are seen the Marciana Mountains, the highest in the Island ; they are composed of marble and granite, and have quarries which were worked in the time of the Romans. In the vicinity of these mountains, at Marciana, is the most lucrative tunny fishery ; the other is in the Bay of Porto-Ferrajo, on the east side, opposite to the small Village of Magazine, where there is a good house belonging to the superintendant of the fishery. The fishing season is in May. Last year, when the period for beginning the fishery arrived, Bonaparte attended at its commencement, and struck one of the fish with a harpoon, amidst the acclamations of the fishermen.

Under Magazine, a large mark, formed of casks, was occasionally anchored at the Bay, for the purpose of firing at with red-hot shot : at this exercise the troops were generally employed twice a-week in one of the batteries near Fort Stella. To prevent accidents, on such occasions, two small blue flags were constantly flying at the

end of the Linguetta, and on Fort Martelle, beyond which, when seen in a line, no boat was to pass during the operation; similar flags were placed at the other end of the battery, to prevent boats coming in at that time.

The Portrait of Bonaparte, introduced in the Panorama, represents him in the *costume* he usually wore in Elba. He appeared to be grown extremely corpulent, very easy and affable in his manner, and in remarkably good health.

FINIS.

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